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REMARKS

The claims before the Examiner are claims 77, 79, 81 to 84, 86, and 88 to 102.

The allowance of claims 103 to 110 in the Final Rejection mailed March 1, 2004 is noted with appreciation. Those claims, however, have been canceled because applicants at present have no interest therein.

Claim 77 has been amended to state that the chemical conversion coating is formed from an aqueous solution containing a mixture of a phenolic resin, a trivalent chromium fluoride compound, and phosphoric acid. The Examiner is directed to page 30, lines 5 to 10 of the specification for this particular chemical conversion coating. (Claim 97 has been changed also in this manner.) Claim 78 and claims depending therefrom have been canceled and various criticized phrases have been stricken from claims 89 to 94.

Claims 89 to 99 were rejected under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112 as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement of the Patent Code. The portion of the phrase quoted by the Examiner reading "at a temperature not higher than a softening point of the adhesive resin layer" has

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been stricken from the claims in which it appears. The phrase as it reads is supported by the specification.

Claims 89 to 102 were rejected under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112 as also allegedly not complying with the written description requirement of the Patent Code. The phrase "not lower than its softening point and not higher than its melting point" has been changed by removing the phrase "and not higher than its melting point." Independent claim 100 has been amended also to include a cooling step in the innermost layer formation step. The claim now calls for, after extruding, "then cooling the innermost layer by passing the innermost layer between a chill roll and a pressure roll." The claims as revised patentably define over the art of record.

The rejection of claims 77 and 84 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Chow et al. '046 in view of Zumstein, if applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed. The chemical conversion coating recited in independent claim 77 is not taught or suggested in the cited art. While Zumstein discloses that one can form an improved paint adherent surface by immersing a metal in a solution of partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetate, phosphoric acid, and chromic acid, and then

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electroplating same, the reference does not teach or suggest a chemical conversion coating formed by phosphate treatment using as an aqueous solution a mixture of a phenolic resin, a trivalent chromium fluoride compound, and phosphoric acid. The rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 79, 81, and 82 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Chow et al. '046 in view of Zumstein, further in view of Koike '994 and Fitko et al. '672 is also respectfully traversed. The tertiary references do not overcome the deficiencies of Zumstein discussed above and these claims also patentably define over the references.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 79 and 83 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Chow et al. '046 in view of Zumstein, further in view of Mitsui and Fitko et al. '672; here, as in the previous rejection, the tertiary references are cited to show various features, but those features do not make up for what is lacking in Zumstein. The rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 86 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Chow et al. '046 in view of Zumstein, further in view of Sanyo is traversed for the same reason given above. Applicants

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take the same position regarding the rejection of claims 79 and 88 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Chow et al. '046 in view of Zumstein, further in view of Sanyo and Fitko '672.

The rejection of claims 78, 80, and 85 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Noh '131 in view of Komai et al. '783 and Bainbridge et al. '502 is moot following the cancellation of those claims. The rejections in Sections 14 and 15 of the Office Action are also moot in view of the cancellation of the claims listed in those rejections.

Reconsideration of the application and an early allowance of claims 77, 79, 81 to 84, 86, and 88 to 102 is earnestly solicited.

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The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 26, 2004  
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